

20 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting DCI

VIA: Executive Director

1. Mr. Ted Lewis, of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, telephoned this afternoon to ask whether Mr. Bissell was still with CIA. I said he left some months ago and was now with "a research organization" in Washington.

2. Mr. Lewis said he was asking because he was "intrigued" with Secretary Rusk's testimony on Cuba given before the two Senate committees last Monday and released today. To a question by Senator Russell about the "quality" of intelligence about Cuba, Secretary Rusk is quoted as saying: "...very firm indeed," on Soviet missile sites; but as to "political" information, on political "attitudes," etc. our information is inadequate.

3. Mr. Lewis commented that he thought that that deficiency was a factor in U.S. "optimism" before the April 1961 invasion attempt, in Mr. Bissell's time, and that that factor had been connected.

4. I had no comment, of course, on Mr. Lewis' musings, except to confirm Mr. Bissell's departure some months ago.

5. Also herewith is UPI story (UPI - 110, September 20), paraphrasing Secretary Rusk's testimony, saying that "he could use more political intelligence on the attitudes of the Cuban people under the Castro regime."

Acting Assistant to the Director

Legislative Counsel

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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RUSK TOLD THE SENATE GROUPS (LAST MONDAY) THAT PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION WILL NOT END CONGRESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CUBAN SITUATION. HE SAID HE IS SURE THAT CONSEQUENCES OF A "MAJOR USE" OF U. S. FORCES AGAINST CUBA WOULD BE SO GREAT THAT "THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH MOVE."

HE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE ADVANTAGE WHICH WOULD COME FROM OVERWHELMING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE CUBA RESOLUTION CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE.

THE SECRETARY, IN A HEAVILY CENSORED SECTION OF THE SCREENED HEARING TRANSCRIPT, EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE ON THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COMING FROM CUBA. HE SAID HE COULD USE MORE POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE UNDER THE CASTRO REGIME.

ON SUCH MATTERS AS MISSILE SITES, RUSK SAID, "WE DO HAVE VERY FIRM INFORMATION INDEED"

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